

COAL NONFATAL

81-0220

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 9

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(Underground Coal Mine)

NONINJURY COAL MINE OUTBURST ACCIDENT

L. S. Wood Mine (ID No. 05-00300)
Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.
Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado

April 3, 1981

by

Lee H. Smith
Coal Mine Inspector

Originating Office - Mine Safety and Health Administration
Drawer J, 575 East First South, Price, Utah 84501
Jensen L. Bishop, Subdistrict Manager

APR 10 1981
U. S. DEPT. OF LABOR
DENVER, CO 80202

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(UNDERGROUND COAL MINE)

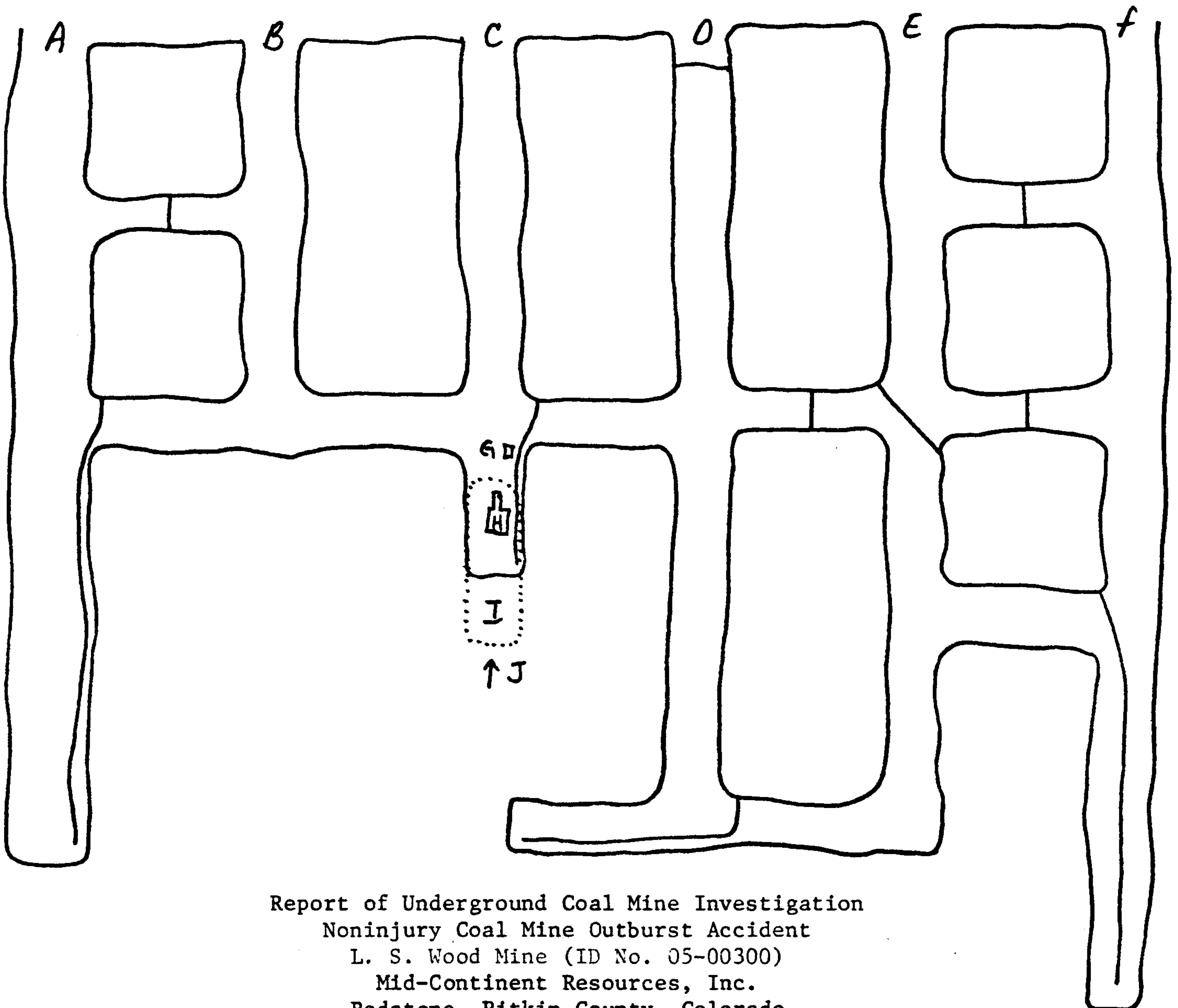
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Legend:

- A - No. 6 Slope
- B - No. 5 Slope
- C - No. 4 Slope
- D - No. 3 Slope
- E - No. 2 Slope
- F - No. 1 Slope Return Air Course
- G - Remote Control (Multiplexer)
- H - Continuous Mining Machine
- I - Area of Coal Outburst
- J - Direction of Coal Outburst



Report of Underground Coal Mine Investigation
Noninjury Coal Mine Outburst Accident
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Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.
Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado
April 3, 1981

Abstract of Investigation

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration



Authority—

This report is based on an investigation made pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Public Law 95-173, as amended by Public Law 95-164.

SECTION A—IDENTIFICATION DATA

Noninjury Coal Mine
1. Title of investigation: Outburst Accident
2. Date MESA investigation started: 04/03/81
3. Report release date: 04/13/81
4. Mine: L. S. Wood
5. Mine ID number: 05-00300
6. Company: Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.
7. Town, County, State: Redstone, Pitkin Co., CO
8. Author(s): Lee H. Smith

SECTION D—ORIGINATING OFFICE

18 Mine Safety and Health Administration
Coal Mine Health and Safety District No.: 9
Address: Drawer J, Price, UT 84501

SECTION B—MINE INFORMATION

9. Daily production: 1,345 Tons
10. Surface employment: 6
11. Underground employment: 101
12. Name of coalbed: Coal Basin "B"
13. Thickness of coalbed: 84 Inches

SECTION C—SAFETY RECORD FREQUENCY RATE (HS) PER 100

14. Industry: 10.31
15. This operation: 16.00
16. Training program approved: Yes
17. Mine Profile Rating: 741

SECTION E—ABSTRACT

On Friday, April 3, 1981, about 7:10 p.m., an outburst of coal occurred in the No. 4 slope of L. S. Wood Mine, Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. No personal injury was suffered. The accident occurred because of the overburden which is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness and exerts extreme pressure on the coalbed.

SECTION F—MINE OFFICIALS

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	John A. Reeves, Sr.	P.O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
20. Superintendent:	Tom Scott	P.O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
21. Safety Director:	Ron Henderson	P.O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
22. Principle officer—H&S:	Tom Scott	P.O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
23. Labor Organization:	Redstone Workers Assoc.	0526 Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623
24. Chairman—H&S Committee:	Richard Lane	0526 Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623

Commentary

On Friday, April 3, 1981, about 3:05 p.m., the 001-0 (slopes) section crew under the supervision of Dennis Bouwens, section foreman, entered the mine and traveled to the slopes section. Normal mining activities were begun and continued until 7:00 p.m. At that time, Bouwens ordered Ray Arellano, continuous mining machine operator, to back the machine up and begin grading the mine floor of the No. 4 slope and advance to the face. Bouwens stated that the mine floor was steadily heaving and his rib posts were beginning to crush out. The cross-shift section foreman, Dewey King, had told him that the mine floor had been making noises and that he believed an outburst of some sort (a bounce or a push) was about to occur. After Arellano had repositioned his machine he started the grading procedure and loaded a shuttle car. As the shuttle car started for the section dumping point, a rapid succession of noise and vibration occurred in a coal outburst about 7:10 p.m. Ray Arellano said, "it hit real hard and I waited to see if it would hit again. It did and everybody started running. It must have hit 30 times. I threw down the remote control and took off." Bouwens shut off the section power center and dangered off the accident scene. He then called Tom Scott, mine superintendent, at his home and informed him of the accident. Scott called Freeman Staples, MSHA supervisor, and told him about the accident and an investigation was begun.

Discussion and Evaluation

The investigation revealed the following factors relevant to the occurrence of the outburst of coal:

1. The outburst occurred on Friday, April 3, 1981, about 7:10 p.m.
2. No personal injury was suffered.
3. The coal outburst caused the withdrawal of miners and disrupted regular mining activity for more than one hour.
4. The coal outburst impaired ventilation.
5. The accident scene was confined to the No. 4 slope. The outburst was approximately 104 feet in length and 22 feet in width. The height of the outburst ranged from 7½ feet to 4 feet. Prior to the outburst this entry averaged 18 feet in width and 7½ feet in height.
6. According to the night shift mine examiner's on-shift report for April 3, 1981, a 1.2% volume of methane gas was detected after the coal outburst in the No. 4 slope.
7. The overburden in this area is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness. Due to this natural condition, extreme pressure is exerted on the coalbed which creates severe rib sloughage and coal outbursts were often experienced during development operations.

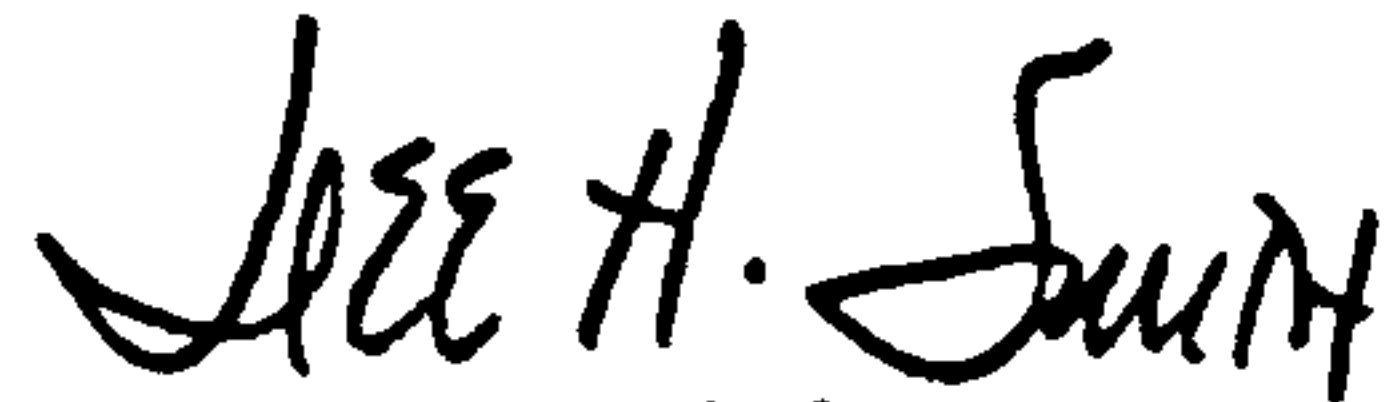
Findings of Fact

Evidence and findings of the investigation indicated there were no violations of Title 30 CFR which contributed to the occurrence of the accident.

Conclusion

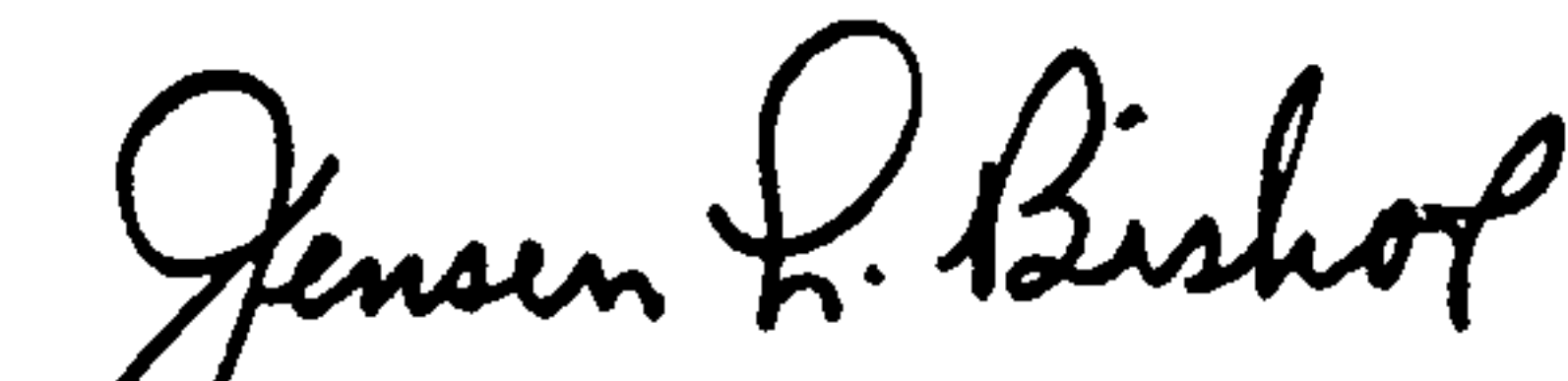
The accident occurred because of the overburden which is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness and exerts extreme pressure on the coalbed.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee H. Smith
Coal Mine Inspector

Approved:



Jensen L. Bishop
Subdistrict Manager

APPENDIX

The investigation was conducted by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and those persons present during the investigation were:

Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Officials

M. J. Turnipseed	Manager of Mines
Tom Scott	Superintendent
Dewey King	Section Foreman
Dennis Bouwens	Section Foreman

Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Employees

Ray Arellano	Continuous Mining Machine Operator
Ed Kemp	Continuous Mining Machine Helper

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Lee H. Smith	Coal Mine Inspector
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